



Epilepsy Centers  
of Excellence

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

# THE CONSORTIUM CONNECTION

## National VA Epilepsy Consortium Reception at AES Annual Meeting

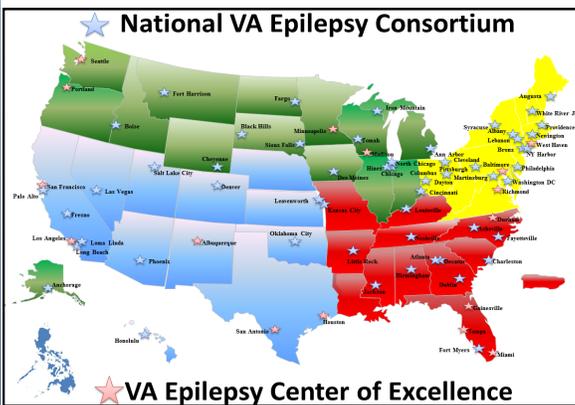
The American Epilepsy Society 2013 Annual Meeting on December 6th -10th is fast approaching! We hope to see you there in Washington, D.C. Please be sure to visit the ECoE display booth to gather valuable information about our programs.

The VA Epilepsy Center of Excellence (ECoE) will be hosting our National VA Epilepsy Consortium

Reception on Sunday, December 8, 2013 at 6:00 p.m. This reception is being held in conjunction with the AES Annual Meeting at the Renaissance Hotel in Washington, D.C.

The meeting will provide an opportunity for Consortium Members, ECoE Directors, and other key staff from across the national VA ECoE to share information and learn about treatment of epilepsy and other seizure disorders. The meeting will focus on review of ECoE accomplishments in clinical, research, and education programs. The goal of the meeting is to enhance access to clinical care and appropriate treatment for Veterans with epilepsy and seizure disorders. We look forward to hosting an informative and meaningful meeting.

If you are interested in attending the National VA Epilepsy Consortium Reception on December 8, 2013, contact Angela Vargas at [angela.vargas@va.gov](mailto:angela.vargas@va.gov) to RSVP.



## National VA Epilepsy Consortium Newsletter

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U.S. Department  
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## Epilepsy Centers of Excellence (ECoE) Clinical Template Released

On September 25, 2013 the National ECoE Epilepsy Clinical Templates (Patch PXR\*2\*30) was released. Aatif Husain, MD (SE ECoE Regional Director) and his staff have worked tirelessly, for approximately 2 years, in collaboration with OI&T, to finalize this phase of the clinical template project. The National ECoE directors were involved with the planning content at the beginning stage of the project. Pamela Kelly (SE ECoE Regional Administrative Director), Rizwana Rehman (SE ECoE Statistician) and David Carter (Clinical Application Coordinator, Miami VAMC) worked to ensure that the final deliverable was a reflection of the ECoE directors' conceptual design.

With full implementation of the ECoE clinical templates, the ECoE will have a thorough

registry of Veterans receiving specialized epilepsy care in the VA with standardized health information. The clinical templates are aligned with American Academy of Neurology (AAN) epilepsy quality measures and the National Institutes of Health (NIH) Common Data elements. Other features of interest include the ability to track OEF/OIF/OND TBI screening, Antiepileptic Drugs (AED) tracking options and reminder features. Once the template is completed by the specialist, it will generate a note, eliminating the need of a separate note by the provider. The note created can be edited as needed for clearer depiction of information before signing. Databases created with the collected data will be valuable in the epilepsy surveillance among Veterans, quantitative

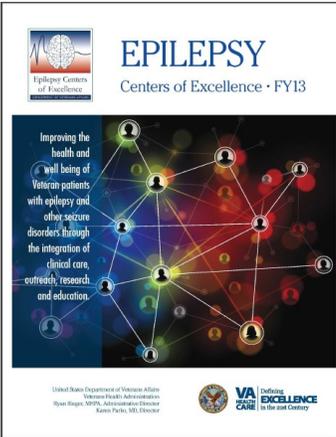
assessment of the ECoE program, research and general program operations (specifically maximizing resources).

The clinical templates were released nationally and ECoE sites have been working with their local CAC to implement and begin using the templates consistently on or before December 1, 2013. An implementation roll out for Neurologists and Epileptologists located at non ECoE sites is being finalized. Some of the Neurologists and Epileptologists that are members of the ECoE consortium have already begun implementation at their local medical centers. Others who are interested in learning more about the templates can contact the SE ECoE office. Additionally, training videos specific to provider use of the templates can be located on the VHA

National ECoE and SE ECoE SharePoint sites. Please feel free to contact either of the ECoE offices for additional details. A Frequently Asked Question document is projected to be completed and released during FY13 2<sup>nd</sup> QTR.

The ECoE Leadership including Robert Ruff, MD (VHA Neurology Director) and Karen Parko, MD (ECoE National Director) is excited about the potential return of investment associated with the implementation of the Clinical template as a wonderful health management tool. Work has begun to obtain appropriate support for maintaining the database. Once provisions have been achieved in this area, information will be shared on how to glean information for surveillance and research projects.

## Epilepsy Centers of Excellence FY13 Annual Report



The Epilepsy Centers of Excellence FY13 Annual Report is complete and available to view on the ECoE website.

In addition to outlining the goals for FY14, this year's report provides information about the ECoE's success with Telehealth Expansion, the creation of the EMU Diagnosis Database as well as the results of our first Patient Satisfaction Survey.

Copies of this year's annual report along with FY11 and FY12 can be found [Here](#).

To request a copy of the annual report, please contact Ryan Rieger, National Administrative Director, at 415-221-4810 x4119 or by email at [ryan.rieger@va.gov](mailto:ryan.rieger@va.gov).

## In the News



The New Tribune article on the Epilepsy Centers of Excellence, and the link between combat-related head trauma and recurring seizures, can be read [Here](#).



*The American Veteran* recently completed a video on the Epilepsy Centers of Excellence. The video can be watched [Here](#).

Dr. Christine Baca, Attending Physician at the VA West Los Angeles Epilepsy Center for Excellence, was interviewed about Veterans and epilepsy. The interview with ABC news can be watched [Here](#).

## Educational Opportunities for Providers

### Healthcare Provider Education Audio Conferences

Sponsored by the Epilepsy Centers of Excellence & Employee Education System

**Provider calls are CME accredited for Physicians and Nurses.**

Dial-in: 1-855-767-1051 Access Code: 81024195

1:00-2:00 PM Eastern Time

10:00-11:00 AM Pacific Time

**January 8, 2014** – “Qualitative EEG”

Chris Sackellares, MD - Gainesville VAMC

**March 5, 2014** – “Diagnosis and Management of Status Epilepticus”

Tom Frontera, MD - Tampa VAMC

**May 7, 2014** – “Autoimmune Causes of Epilepsy”

Manu Hegde, MD – San Francisco VAMC

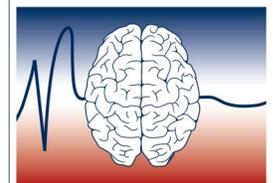
**July 9, 2014** - “Driving and Epilepsy”

Allan Krumholz, MD - Baltimore VAMC

**September 10, 2014** – “Epilepsy and Imaging”

Zulfi Haneef, MD – Houston VAMC

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*Improving the health and well being of Veteran patients with epilepsy and other seizure disorders through the integration of clinical care, outreach, research and education.*

**VISIT US ON THE WEB!**

[www.epilepsy.va.gov](http://www.epilepsy.va.gov)

### Helpful Links:

The Epilepsy Foundation  
[www.epilepsyfoundation.org](http://www.epilepsyfoundation.org)

American Epilepsy Society  
[www.aesnet.org](http://www.aesnet.org)

Citizens United for Research in Epilepsy  
[www.cureepilepsy.org](http://www.cureepilepsy.org)

The Anita Kaufmann Foundation  
[www.akfus.org](http://www.akfus.org)

### Contact Us:

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Department of Veterans Affairs

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*If you would like to submit content to be included in The Consortium Connection contact Angela Vargas at [angela.vargas@va.gov](mailto:angela.vargas@va.gov).*



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

If you have any questions please contact, Ryan Rieger, National Administrative Director, at 415-221-4810 x4119 or by email at [ryan.rieger@va.gov](mailto:ryan.rieger@va.gov).